Appl. No.

09/881,256

Filed

June 14, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An overhead cable wherein a sectional shape of an outer circumferential surface formed by outermost members is a polygon inscribing a circle of a diameter d mm, sides of the polygon are formed as substantially flat surfaces connecting adjoining vertexes, vertexes of the polygon inscribing the circle are cut away to form arc-shaped grooves having a radius R mm and having a depth H mm from the vertexes, and the arc-shaped grooves are formed in spirals in the outer circumference of the overhead cable in a longitudinal direction of the overhead cable at predetermined pitches,

the diameter d of the overhead cable being in a range of 36.6 to 52 mm, and the outer circumferential surface formed by the outermost members being formed by a number N of vertexes of the polygon, N being equal or greater than 20 and equal or less than 26,

the depth H of each arc-shaped groove and the diameter d satisfysatisfying a condition defined by the following formula 1:

and

the radius R of each arc-shaped groove and the depth H satisfysatisfying a condition defined by the following formula 2:

2. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) An overhead cable as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outermost members are comprised of a plurality of segments,

wherein each segment is obtained by dividing the polygon at the vertexes, wherein each segment has an inner surface having a partially arc-shaped sectional shape configured to substantially follow the outer contour of a set of inner cable strands, and wherein each segment has an outer surface having a flat sectional shape connecting the adjoining vertexes, and wherein each segment has two corners of the flat outer surface formed to define said arc-shaped groove of a radius R and depth H together with the corners of the adjoining segments, and

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wherein the plurality of segments are arranged so that they adjoin each other so the corners of the adjoining segments form said arc-shaped grooves and cover the outer circumference of the members positioned inside them and so that the plurality of arc-shaped grooves circle the overhead cable in spirals in the longitudinal direction at a predetermined pitch.